

May 18, 2017

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

JONAH DILLARD,

Plaintiff,

v.

BLACKSTONE/OTR LLC, a Georgia  
Corporation,

Defendant.

No. 2:17-CV-0130-SMJ

**STIPULATED PROTECTIVE  
ORDER**

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c) and the stipulation of the parties, the Court hereby enters the following Protective Order:

**1. Facts Establishing Good Cause and “Confidential Information,”**

**Defined.** Plaintiff brings this lawsuit containing one count for constructive discharge against Defendant Blackstone/OTR, LLC, (“Defendant”), one count for violation of the public policy, and one count for failure to provide a copy of a personnel file. Defendant denies Plaintiff’s allegations. It is anticipated that non-public confidential financial, educational, medical and/or personnel information about Plaintiff, as well as non-public confidential financial, educational, medical and/or personnel information about current and former employees of Defendant, and non-public confidential information regarding the policies, practices,

1 procedures, training, performance, finances, taxes, compensation data, employee  
2 personnel information, and operation of Defendant may be requested through  
3 discovery (hereafter, “Confidential Information”). The parties recognize that the  
4 public disclosure of such Confidential Information may cause injury to Plaintiff and  
5 Defendant, and the release of Confidential Information may affect the privacy of  
6 Plaintiff, Defendant, and/or current or former employees of Defendant who are not  
7 parties to this Action. This Order protects Plaintiff and Defendant and prohibits the  
8 public release of Confidential Information, while allowing the parties access to  
9 information each seeks to discover and minimizing any potential harmful effects on  
10 either the parties or non-parties. The Court finds that the parties properly seek to  
11 protect such Confidential Information as well as to protect all parties and non-  
12 parties from any annoyance or embarrassment that unrestricted disclosure may  
13 potentially cause.

14 **2. Limited Use of Confidential Information.** “Confidential Information,” as  
15 defined above in paragraph 1, shall be used by the parties only for purposes of  
16 preparing for and conducting the Action (including the trial and any appeals) styled  
17 *Dillard v. Blackstone/OTR, LLC*, Case No. 2:17-CV-00130-SMJ (herein the  
18 “Action”).

19 **3. Designating Information As Confidential.** Any party to this Action may  
20 designate information as “Confidential Information” consistent with the above

1 definition by affixing the legend “Confidential” to every page of the document so  
2 designated or otherwise affixing such legend in a readily visible location on any  
3 other item so designated. In the event that Confidential Information is produced  
4 without a “Confidential” designation, any party may seek to have it designated as  
5 “Confidential” by advising the other party of the same within thirty (30) days. With  
6 respect to Confidential Information contained in testimony, any party may designate  
7 portions of testimony as “Confidential” by notifying all counsel in writing of the  
8 page(s) and line(s) of such testimony within thirty (30) days of receipt of a copy of  
9 the transcript, or such other time period as may be mutually agreed upon by the  
10 parties. All testimony shall be deemed confidential for a period of thirty (30) days  
11 after counsel’s receipt of a copy of the transcript, or such other time period as may  
12 be mutually agreed upon by the parties. There shall be no need to re-designate  
13 documents used in or exhibits to transcripts which have been previously designated  
14 as confidential.

15 **4. Disputes Concerning Designation(s) Of Confidential Information.** If any  
16 party disputes the designation of any information, document, or testimony as  
17 “Confidential,” that party shall attempt to resolve by agreement the question of  
18 whether or on what terms the information is entitled to confidential treatment. If  
19 the parties are unable to agree as to whether the information is properly designated,  
20 counsel for either party may file an appropriate motion with the court. The burden

1 rests upon the person asserting “Confidential” status to demonstrate that the  
2 designation is proper. Until a resolution of the dispute is achieved either through  
3 consent or order of the court, all persons shall treat the designated information in  
4 accordance with its designation.

5 **5. Qualified Persons To Whom Confidential Information May Be**  
6 **Disclosed.** Confidential Information may only be disclosed or made available on a  
7 need-to-know basis by the party receiving such information to “qualified persons”  
8 who are defined to consist of:

- 9 a. The United States District Court of the Eastern District of Washington,  
10 including court personnel and members of the jury;
- 11 b. The parties named in this Action, including the corporate representative(s) of  
12 Defendant (including any of its former and/or current officers, directors,  
13 employees, or agents);
- 14 c. Counsel to all parties in this Action and the clerical, secretarial, and paralegal  
15 staff employed by such counsel;
- 16 d. Court reporters and videographers and related staff employed by such service  
17 providers in this Action;
- 18 e. Independent document reproduction services or document recording and  
19 retrieval services;

1 f. Persons with prior knowledge of the documents or the Confidential  
2 Information contained therein;

3 g. Retained and/or potential experts, consultants, and/or investigators  
4 (including their employees and/or support staff) selected by a party to this  
5 Action to assist in the prosecution or defense of this Action;

6 h. Interviewees, potential witnesses, deponents, hearing or trial witnesses (as  
7 long as the disclosure occurs in the presence of counsel, and copies,  
8 duplicates, images, or the like are not removed or retained by any  
9 interviewee, potential witness, deponent, or hearing or trial witness); and  
10 i. Any other person agreed to in writing by the parties.

11 **6. Disclosure Of Protective Order To “Qualified Persons.”** Each “qualified  
12 person” to whom Confidential Information is disclosed pursuant to this Order shall  
13 be advised that the Confidential Information is being disclosed pursuant to and  
14 subject to the terms of this Order.

15 **7. No Admission Or Waiver.** Compliance with the terms of this Order by a  
16 party or non-party shall not operate as an admission that any particular document is  
17 or is not (a) confidential, (b) privileged, or (c) admissible in evidence. Counsel  
18 expressly agree that nothing in this Order shall serve to waive the right of any party  
19 to object at trial to the admissibility of any document or portion thereof, or the right

1 to file a motion in limine regarding the use at trial of any document or portion  
2 thereof.

3 **8. Depositing Confidential Information With The Court.** Counsel shall not  
4 unnecessarily disclose Confidential Information on the public record of this  
5 proceeding or in written arguments or memoranda submitted to the Court.  
6 However, Counsel shall have the right to file or deposit with the Court any  
7 Confidential Information at any time if such filing or deposit is intended in good  
8 faith to support any party's prosecution or defense of this Action, and further subject  
9 to the right of any party or its counsel to request the Court place any Confidential  
10 Information under seal, either before or after such Confidential Information has  
11 been initially filed with the Court. If any party desires to request any Confidential  
12 Information be placed under seal, that party shall file a separate motion seeking  
13 such Order from the Court.

14 **9. Inadvertent Disclosure of Confidential Information Without**  
15 **Designation.** Subject to the requirements of section 3 of this Stipulated Protective  
16 Order, if a party inadvertently produces any Confidential Information without  
17 designating it as such in accordance with the provisions of this Order, the producing  
18 party may give written notice to the receiving party that the information produced  
19 is deemed Confidential Information and should be treated as such in accordance  
20 with the provisions of this Order. The receiving party must treat such information

1 as Confidential Information from the date such notice is received. Disclosure, prior  
2 to the receipt of such notice, of such Confidential Information to persons not  
3 authorized to receive such Confidential Information shall not be deemed a violation  
4 of this Order; provided, however, that the party making such disclosure shall make  
5 all reasonable efforts to notify any party to whom such disclosure was made that  
6 such information is Confidential pursuant to this Order. The parties shall attempt  
7 in good faith to retrieve any inadvertently produced Confidential Information from  
8 anyone who is not a “qualified person” pursuant to this Order.

9 **10. Information Lawfully Acquired Prior To Production In This Action.**

10 This Order shall not be construed to prevent any party or its representatives from  
11 using Confidential Information in any way which was lawfully in its or his/her  
12 possession prior to the production of such documents or information in this Action.

13 **11. Privileged Information.** Nothing in this Order shall operate to require the  
14 production of information or documents that are subject to a good faith assertion of  
15 attorney-client privilege and/or work product doctrine, and/or any other applicable  
16 privilege.

17 **12. Storage Of Confidential Information During Pendency Of Action.**

18 Documents and things designated as containing Confidential Information, and any  
19 copies or extracts thereof, shall be retained in the custody of the attorneys of record  
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1 during the pendency of this Action, except as reasonably necessary to provide  
2 access to persons authorized under the provisions of this Order.

3 **13. Storage Of Confidential Information Subsequent To This Action.** Upon  
4 the conclusion of this Action by settlement, final judgment, or final order, including  
5 all appeals, counsel for any party to this Action shall return any original  
6 Confidential Information to the designating party, if requested. However, counsel  
7 in this Action may maintain a copy of all Confidential Information as a part of  
8 counsel's case files.

9 **14. Jurisdiction.** The Court's jurisdiction to enforce the provisions of this  
10 Protective Order shall be terminated upon the final disposition of this case, unless  
11 and until a party seeks leave to reopen the case to enforce the provisions of this  
12 Protective Order.

13 **15. Inadvertent Disclosure or Production of Documents.**

14 a. The inadvertent production of any document or other information during  
15 discovery in this Action shall be without prejudice to any claim that such  
16 material is protected by any legally cognizable privilege or evidentiary  
17 protection including, but not limited to, the attorney-client privilege or the  
18 work product doctrine, and no party shall be held to have waived any  
19 rights by such inadvertent production.

1       b. Upon written notice of an unintentional production by the producing party  
2           or oral notice if notice must be delivered at a deposition, the receiving  
3           party must promptly return or destroy the specified document and any  
4           hard copies the receiving party has and may not use or disclose the  
5           information until the privilege claim has been resolved. To the extent that  
6           the producing party insists on the return or destruction of electronic  
7           copies, rather than disabling the documents from further use or otherwise  
8           rendering them inaccessible to the receiving party, the producing party  
9           shall bear the costs of the return or destruction of such electronic copies.

10       c. To the extent that the information contained in a document subject to a  
11           claim has already been used in or described in other documents generated  
12           or maintained by the receiving party, then the receiving party will  
13           sequester such documents until the claim has been resolved. If the  
14           receiving party disclosed the specified information before being notified  
15           of its inadvertent production, it must take reasonable steps to retrieve it.  
16           The producing party shall preserve the specified information until the  
17           claim is resolved.

18       d. The receiving party shall have ten (10) days from receipt of notification  
19           of the inadvertent production to determine in good faith whether to contest

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1 such claim and to notify the producing party in writing of an objection to  
2 the claim of privilege and the grounds for that objection.

3 e. The producing party will then have ten (10) days from the receipt of the  
4 objection notice to submit the specified information to the Court under  
5 seal for a determination of the claim and will provide the Court with the  
6 grounds for the asserted privilege or protection. Any party may request  
7 expedited treatment of any request for the Court's determination of the  
8 claim.

9 f. Upon a determination by the Court that the specified information is  
10 protected by the applicable privilege, and if the specified information has  
11 been sequestered rather than returned or destroyed, the specified  
12 information shall be returned or destroyed.

13 g. Upon a determination by the Court that the specified information is not  
14 protected by the applicable privilege, the producing party shall bear the  
15 costs of placing the information into any programs or databases from  
16 which it was removed or destroyed and render accessible any documents  
17 that were disabled or rendered inaccessible, unless otherwise ordered by  
18 the Court.

**IT IS SO ORDERED.** The Clerk's Office is directed to enter this Order and provide copies to all counsel.

**DATED** this 18th day of May 2017.

Salvador Mendoza Jr.  
SALVADOR MENDEZA, JR.  
United States District Judge